

Linking a Proposal

Trace how an argument connects claims, evidence, and objections.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1c “Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words, phrases, and clauses that show how ideas connect. In the margin, label each one as claim to reason, reason to evidence, claim to counterclaim, or section link.

A Plaza for the Library Block

- ① Our town should turn one unused paved lot near the library into a small public plaza with shade trees and benches. The lot now absorbs sunlight and offers no place for people waiting for buses or meeting after school. Because pavement can become much hotter than shaded ground on sunny days, trees would make the block more comfortable. In addition, a plaza would give the library room to hold outdoor readings and local groups a place to post events. These benefits support a modest project, rather than a costly new building.
- ② Some residents may argue that the lot should remain available for parking. Their concern deserves attention, since drivers need access to downtown stores. However, the site is only a short walk from two public parking areas, while its current condition serves people poorly when they are not driving. A design with a loading space and bike racks could address access without surrendering the entire lot to cars. Moreover, shade trees can reduce surface temperatures nearby, so the plaza would improve a daily experience that parking spaces cannot provide.
- ③ For these reasons, the council should fund a simple plaza plan and ask residents to review it before construction begins. First, planners could map the sunniest sections of the lot and place trees where their shade would reach benches and the bus stop. Then, the library and nearby businesses could help schedule uses for the space. Although the plaza would require maintenance, a clear plan for watering, trash collection, and repairs would make that responsibility manageable. By balancing access with comfort, the proposal answers the parking objection while advancing a more useful public block.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What is the main claim in paragraph 1? Which clause links the reason about hot pavement to the evidence that trees would help?

- 2 What counterclaim appears in paragraph 2? How does the word "However" signal the writer's response to it?

- 3 What relationship does "Moreover" create between the sentences around it in paragraph 2?

- 4 How do "For these reasons," "First," and "Then" organize paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph argument of 110 to 140 words about one improvement your school should make. State a claim, support it with a reason and specific evidence, address a counterclaim, and use at least five linking words, phrases, or clauses, including one that introduces a counterclaim and one that responds to it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words, phrases, and clauses that show how ideas connect. In the margin, label each one as claim to reason, reason to evidence, claim to counterclaim, or section link. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main claim in paragraph 1? Which clause links the reason about hot pavement to the evidence that trees would help?	The main claim is that the town should turn the paved lot into a public plaza. "Because pavement can become much hotter than shaded ground on sunny days" links the cause or reason to the benefit of trees.
2	What counterclaim appears in paragraph 2? How does the word "However" signal the writer's response to it?	The counterclaim is that the lot should remain available for parking. "However" signals a contrast and introduces the writer's response that nearby parking exists and the current lot serves non-drivers poorly.
3	What relationship does "Moreover" create between the sentences around it in paragraph 2?	"Moreover" adds another supporting point. After explaining how the design could preserve access, it adds the benefit that shade trees can lower nearby surface temperatures.
4	How do "For these reasons," "First," and "Then" organize paragraph 3?	"For these reasons" connects the conclusion to the earlier argument. "First" and "Then" sequence the proposed planning and community-use steps.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add covered bike racks near the main entrance. Because rain can soak backpacks and seats during the school day, uncovered racks discourage students from riding. In addition, a covered area would make the racks easier to find and use before class. Some people may argue that construction money should go only to classrooms. However, students need safe ways to reach those classrooms, and bike storage is part of that need. Last spring, several bicycles stood in puddles after storms, showing that the current racks do not protect riders' belongings. For this reason, the school should seek a small shelter rather than delay the project. Although the shelter would need upkeep, the facilities team could inspect it with the existing racks. Thus, a practical addition would answer the budget concern while helping more students choose bicycles.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately identify a linking expression and the relationship it creates. For the open response, look for a clear claim, relevant support, a genuine counterclaim and response, and purposeful links across and within paragraphs.